Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 FEA-01 ERDA-05 AID-05 CEA-01

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R 101415Z OCT 75 FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5438 INFO USDOC WASHDC AMEMBASSY JIDDA

CONFIDENTIAL MOSCOW 14548

E.O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: ENRG, EGEN, UR, SA

SUBJECT: POSSIBLE ROLE FOR USSR IN MOBIL OIL'S CORPORATE PLANNING

USDOC FRO BEWT AND CAGNE
DEPARTMENT PASS FEA FOR JOSEPH BELL
DEPARTMENT PASS TREASURY FOR A.S. PARSKY

REF: MOSCOW 14534 (NOTAL)

1. DURING OCTOBER 6-10 VISIT TO MOSCOW BY MOBIL OIL TASK FORCE (REFTEL, COMMERCIAL OFFICER QUERIED DIRECTOR OF MOBILE EUROPE'S SALES AND SUPPLY CORPORATION, JAMES P. PEEVEY, IF MOBIL WAS POTENTIALLY INTERESTED IN OBTAINING SOVIET CRUDE. AFTER GIVING CAVEAT THAT DEFINITIVEANSWER COULD ONLY COME FROM "TWO OR THREE MEN IN COROPORATE HEADQUARTERS", PEEVEY EXPRESSED VERY STRONG DOUBTS THAT MOBIL WOULD SHOW ENTHUSIASM FOR PARTIAL SOURCING OF THEIR OUTSIDE CRUDE REQUIREMENT IN USSR. MOBIL HAS JUST MADE BILLION DOLLAR INVESTMENTIN SAUDI ARABIA ON WHICH THEY EXPECT TO CAPITILIZE, AND MOBIL FULLY EXPECTS TO OBTAIN ALL ITS ADDITIONAL CRUDE REQUIREMENTS FROM THIS SOURCE.

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2. SHOULD THERE BY ANY INTEREST BY MOBIL HEADQUARTERS IN

ARRANGEMENT WITH SOVIETS ON CRUDE SUPPLY, HOWEVER, IT WOULD HAVE TO BE AT LAST MEDIUM TERM (MINIMUM THREE YEARS) TO JUSTIFY MAKING THE NECESSARY LOGISTICAL CHANGES IN TRANSPORTATION, SUPPLY SCHEDULES ETC. IN SUCH CASE, PEEVEY SUGGESTED, SOVIET CRUDE WOULD PROBALY BE SHIPPED TO US RATHER THAN EUROPEAN OPERATIONS, IN VIEW GREATER EFFICIENCY OF AMERCAN REFINERIES IN PROCESSING QUALITY CRUDE LIKELY TO BE OBTAINED FROM USSR.

- 3. PEEVEY ALSO EXPRESSED OPINION THAT MOBIL'S SECONDARY/
 TERTIARY RECOVERY TECHNOLOGY WOULD BE ABLE TO INCREASE YIELD OF
 SOVIET DEPOSITS SUFFICIENTLY TO MAKE A TECHNOLOGY/CRUDE SUPPLY
 ARRANGEMENT ECONOMICALLY JUSTIFICABLE.
- 4. COMMENT: REMARKS OF MOBIL REP TEND TO CONFIRM COMMERCIAL OFFICE'S ASSUMPTION THAT ARAMCO PARTNERS ARE LIKELY TO BE LESS INTERESTED IN ACQUIRING SOVIET CRUDE THAN OTHER MAJORS (PARTICULARLY GULF) OR COMPANIES SUCH AS STANDARD OF INDIANA. STOESSEL

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